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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 7 January 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the information on the organization and implementation of terrorist activities by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan (addition to information contained in document E/CN.4/1997/138).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and the above-mentioned information as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under item 9 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed): Sima EIVAZOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Information on the organization and implementation of terrorist activities by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan

(supplementing that contained in document E/CN.4/1997/138)

1. On 3 July 1994, an explosion took place in the second carriage of a Baku underground train between the "28 May" and "Gyandzhlik" stations; as a result, 13 persons were killed, 42 persons suffered bodily injuries of varying gravity (these figures include women and children) and considerable material damage was caused to State property.

2. It was established during the criminal investigation carried out that this terrorist act was perpetrated by Azer Aslanov, an Azerbaijani citizen born and resident in Baku, who had been an officer in the Azerbaijani armed forces.

3. In the course of the investigation and trial it was established that in 1994 A. Aslanov, when a prisoner in Armenia, was recruited by the Armenian Republic's Secret Service, the members of which worked him over for a considerable time, using drugs and psychotropic substances to induce him to engage in terrorist acts on Azerbaijani territory.

4. The investigation and trial brought to light the methods used by the Armenian Secret Service to get Azerbaijani prisoners and hostages to commit crimes of this nature. It was demonstrated that in the course of A. Aslanov's recruitment the Armenian Secret Service insistently tried to have his parents come to the Azerbaijani town of Shusha, which was occupied by Armenian armed forces, allegedly to hand their son over to them. About one month before the above-mentioned explosion took place, and specifically on 9 June 1994, Artur Akopyan, a liaison agent of Armenia's Secret Service living in Moscow, phoned A. Aslanov's parents and talked with his mother about the route she should take via Mineralnye Vody (Russian Federation) to the town of Erevan. Proceeding accordingly and arriving on 15 June in the Armenian capital, A. Aslanov's mother was taken by members of Armenia's Secret Service to the town of Shusha. This is the point at which A. Aslanov's intensive indoctrination began with a view to his carrying out a terrorist act in the Baku underground.

5. It was reliably established that A. Aslanov was provided with forged papers and a large sum of money. Moreover, before sending A. Aslanov westwards, members of Armenia's Secret Service entrusted the captain of the Erevan-Mineralnye Vody airliner with a home-made explosive device. When the aircraft arrived in Mineralnye Vody, the captain, whose baggage was not inspected, gave the device to A. Aslanov.

6. In the evening of 2 July 1994, A. Aslonov arrived by train in Baku from Mineralnye Vody. The next morning he set off the explosion in the Baku underground and on the same day returned to Erevan via Mineralnye Vody.

7. Only after A. Aslanov's return was his mother who, throughout this period had been held hostage in Shusha, allowed to return to Baku. A. Aslanov himself was released only after four months with the help of a mediator. Following his release he lived in the town of Makhachkal (Russian Federation)

with forged papers. During this period, members of Armenia's Secret Service telephoned him on several occasions, trying to induce him to sabotage the Baku-Novorossiisk oil pipeline.

8. It was established during the investigation and trial that A. Aslanov's recruitment and preparation to set off the explosion in the Baku underground were organized by certain members of Armenia's Secret Service and of the so-called "Nagorny-Karabakh Republic" - Colonel Karen Bagdasaryan, a certain Colonel Agvan, Captain Seiran Sarkisyan and others.

9. It was also established that, apart from members of Armenia's Secret Service, one of the ideologists behind the Nagorny Karabakh region's breakaway from Azerbaijan, namely, Zorii Balayan, a writer on social issues, also participated actively in his recruitment.

10. According to A. Aslanov's testimony, the Baku underground operation was coordinated with Robert Kocharyan, the leader of the so-called "Nagorny Karabakh Republic" and now President of Armenia.

11. A. Aslanov was arrested at the request of Azerbaijan's security bodies on 3 September 1996 in the town of Makhachkal by members of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation and handed over to Azerbaijan on 29 November 1997.

12. On 29 April 1998, the Judicial Criminal Affairs Panel of the Supreme Court of the Azerbaijani Republic found A. Aslanov guilty of crimes under article 57 (treason), article 61 (terrorism), article 71 (smuggling), article 94, paragraph 1 (premeditated murder with aggravating circumstances) and article 220, section 1 (transport, possession, acquisition or sale of ammunition or explosives without proper authorization) and sentenced him to the maximum punishment, namely, life imprisonment.

13. At the same time, criminal proceedings were brought against Colonel Karen Bagdasaryan, Colonel Agvan, Captain Seiran Sarkisyan, Artur Akopyan and Zoriya Balayan under the relevant articles of Azerbaijan's Criminal Code on suspicion of organizing terrorist activities in the territory of Azerbaijan and thereby causing the death of large numbers of innocent persons; an investigation is being undertaken.